

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

666

DRAFTED BY: EB:BJMOHLER

APPROVED BY: EB:BJMOHLER

DIST: EB, ISO (ONLY)

----- 128746

R 222258Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS STATE 277379

PASS ASSIST SEC ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 30499 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LONDON FAA BRUSSELS OTTAWA MONTREAL DTD 21 NOV

QTE

UNCLAS PARIS 30499

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: AIR FRANCE VIEWS ON CONCORDE

1. WIRE SERVICES REPORT REMARKS ON CONCORDE MADE
NOV. 20 BEFORE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS CLUB IN PARIS
BY GILBERT PEROL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AIR FRANCE.
PEROL SAID AIR FRANCE WAS IMPATIENT TO LEARN US
DECISION ON CONCORDE. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC OVER
PROSPECTS FOR LANDING RIGHTS AT DULLES BUT ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT SERVICE TO JFK STILL POSED SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

2. PEROL THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT INAUGURATION OF
SERVICE TO NEW YORK MIGHT HAVE TO BE POSTPONED
BEYOND PRESENT TARGET DATE OF APRIL 1, 1976. IF
LANDING RIGHTS AT NEW YORK WERE FINALLY REFUSED THIS
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WOULD, HE SAID, BE AN "ENORMOUS DISAPPOINTMENT" AND

FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS WOULD SUFFER. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF RETALIATION BY AIR FRANCE IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, THOUGH OF COURSE HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE GOF. OTHER US ROUTES WERE OF MINOR IMPORTANCE FOR CONCORDE SERVICE COMPARED TO NEW YORK, BUT AIR FRANCE WAS NONETHELESS OBLIGED TO STUDY POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES SHOULD NEW YORK RIGHTS BE DENIED. MIAMI WAS ONE ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE, HE NOTED, AND SOME THOUGHT WAS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO MONTREAL.

3. PEROL EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE CONCORDE WOULD BE COMMERCIAL SUCCESS. AP REPORTS THAT AIR FRANCE OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING PEROL EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH IATA AGREEMENT ON 20 PERCENT SURCHARGE FOR CONCORDE FARES, WHICH THEY THOUGHT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO COME OUT "SLIGHTLY AHEAD" ON REVENUE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, CONCORDE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE277379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB:BJMOHLER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750408-0352
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751119/aaaaaqny.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 DEC 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: AIR FRANCE VIEWS ON CONCORDE
TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US, AIR FRANCE, (PEROL, GILBERT)
To: STOCKHOLM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006